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Acaulona peruviana Townsend, 1913 (Insecta, Diptera): application of Article 75.8 of the Code

Ronaldo Toma

Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, caixa postal 42594, São Paulo 04299–970, Brazil. (rtkuna@zipmail.com.br)

In 1913, Townsend (p. 93) described a species of parasitic fly (family TACHINIDAE) and named it *Acaulona peruviana*. His description was based on two reared specimens (a male and a female), from San Jacinto, Chira valley, Piura Department, Peru. They emerged as adults on 29 October 1912, having been collected by E.W. Rust from adults of the cotton stainer bug *Dysdercus ruficollis* (Linnaeus, 1764) (Hemiptera,

PYRRHOCORIDAE). The syntypes were deposited in the United States National Museum, Washington D.C. (U.S.N.M). Townsend (1913) reported that *Acaulona peruviana* was comparatively rare and that he had collected only five specimens in the course of three years. The capture data are as follows:

(1) one female, Somate, Rio Chira, 18 November 1910, on flower of *Telanthera* sp.;
(2) one male on foliage, Chapaira, Rio Piura valley, 21 May 1911;
(3) two females, Cañada de Samán, Chira valley, 14 February 1912, on flowers of *Philibertella flava*;
(4) one female, Sullana, Chira valley, 17 February 1912, on foliage.

In 1950 Sabrosky (pp. 369–370) stated that the cotton stainer parasite, *Acaulona peruviana*, had not been formally described, but that the name had been established in connection with the full-page figure published by Townsend (1928, p. 7, fig. 3). Sabrosky (1950) redescribed the species from Townsend's figure and designated a neotype, an allotype, and seventeen neoparatypes. Four of these had the same data as the material listed by Townsend (1913).

Sabrosky (1951, p. 210), after being alerted by Dr Claude Dupuis to his oversight of the original description of *Acaulona peruviana*, acknowledged that he had made a mistake in redescribing the species. However, as he had been unable to find the syntypes of *Acaulona peruviana* deposited by Townsend in the U.S.N.M., Sabrosky (1951) assumed that they were lost and stated that his neotype designation was still valid.

In 1989, the two supposedly lost original specimens on which the description of *Acaulona peruviana* was based were rediscovered in the U.S.N.M. According to Article 75.8 of the Code: 'if, after the designation of a neotype, the name-bearing type of the nominal species-group taxon that was presumed lost is found still to exist, on publication of that discovery the rediscovered material again becomes the name-bearing type and the neotype is set aside'. As a result, Sabrosky's (1950) neotype designation is no longer valid and herewith I designate the male syntype specimen numbered U.S.N.M. 19477 as the lectotype of the nominal species *Acaulona peruviana* Townsend, 1913. The taxonomic reason underlying this lectotype designation is that the female and (to a lesser extent) male genitalia of species in the genus *Acaulona* Wulp, 1888 are very similar and it is only possible to differentiate *Acaulona peruviana* from other species of the genus *Acaulona* by the morphology of the male genitalia whenever the yellow pruinosity of the abdomen of the specimens is not conserved.

The lectotype is a male fly in good condition with the left wing separated from the thorax and glued on a paper support (Figure 1). It is from San Jacinto, Chira valley, Piura Department, Peru, and was collected by E.W. Rust. The paralectotype is the former syntype specimen U.S.N.M. 19477 (the same number as the lectotype). It is a female in good condition, but without the fore left leg and middle right leg. It has the same data as the lectotype.

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Figure 1 The lectotype of *Acaulona peruviana* Townsend, 1913. Male, emerged on 29 October 1912, accession no. U.S.N.M. 19477. From San Jacinto, Chira valley, Piura Department, Peru. Collected by E.W. Rust. The fly is 6.8 mm in length.

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